

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 IOE-00 DHA-02

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /105 W

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P 281732Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7273

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02686

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO: MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO
DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PRE-
JUDICE (POSTPONED)

REF: (A) STATE 20370, (B) PARIS 1005, (C) STATE 4123

1. IN RESPONSE REFTEL A, DEPARTMENT IS REFERRED TO
PARA ONE OURTEL, REF. B REPORTING THAT PERMREP JONES
VERBALLY CONVEYED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION ON JANUARY 12 TO
DG M'BOW OF US INTENTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUBJECT
MEETING. NOTIFICATION GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE LAST LINE
OF PARA ONE OF REFTEL C INSTRUCTIONS OF JANUARY 8, WHICH
DIRECTED M'BOW BE INFORMED OF US DECISION AS SOON AS HE
RETURNED TO PARIS, IN ADDITION TO INFORMING OTHER
PERMREPS.

2. THERE IS NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION ADVISING OF US
DECISION TO NOT PARTICIPATE. MOREOVER THERE IS NO
GENERAL POLICY OR PRACTICE AMONG PERMREPS REGARDING
FORM OF COMMUNICATING DECISIONS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN
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UNESCO MEETINGS. SOME DO SO VERBALLY, OTHERS IN

LETTERS, STILL OTHERS SIMPLY DO NOT ATTEND WITHOUT INFORMING THE SECRETARIAT ABOUT MOTIVATIONS BEHIND.

3. BY WAY OF POSSIBLY USEFUL BACKGROUND TO DRAW UPON IN FORMULATING INQUIRY CITED REFTEL A, AND AS DEPT. AWARE, IT WAS NO SECRET TO SECRETARIAT THERE WAS BROAD INTER-REGIONAL FEELING AMONG PERMDELS THAT SUBJECT MEETING HAD HIGHEST POTENTIAL FOR EXPLOSIVE CONFRONTATION ON "ZIONISM-RACISM" EQUATION AND THAT UNESCO, RATHER THAN HARD-LINE ARAB INSTIGATORS, WOULD SUFFER MOST IN BLAST. FYI: WE HAD SOLID INDICATIONS THAT BLACK AFRICANS AND LATIN AMERICANS DISCREETLY BUT REPEATEDLY AND CLEARLY CONVEYED THIS ASSESSMENT TO DG M'BOW. PERMDEL, OF COURSE, DURING TWO MONTHS PRECEDING PLANNED DATES FOR SUBJECT MEETING, AND ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING TURBULENT MID-DECEMBER MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES MEETING, UNDERTOOK TO ENSURE THERE WAS FULL AWARENESS AMONG SECRETARIAT AND AMONG PERMDELS FRIENDLY TO US VIEWS, OR AT LEAST, NEUTRAL, ON DANGER AND CONSEQUENCES OF "ZIONISM-RACISM" ISSUE ARISING IN SUBJECT MEETING. IN SUM WE BELIEVE, ALTHOUGH DG COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO SO STATE OR ACKNOWLEDGE, THAT WIDE-RANGING APPREHENSION OF SUBJECT MEETING'S VOLATILITY AND COMMUNICATION OF THESE FEELINGS BY ALL CONCERNED TO DG AND TOP-LEVEL OF SECRETARIAT HAD A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON HIS JANUARY 14 DECISION TO POSTPONE MEETING.
GAMMON

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